

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /098 W

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R 081418Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 739

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 7265

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ME, RO, PLO

SUBJECT: ARAFAT VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 7181

1. PLO PRESIDENT YASSER ARAFAT'S VISIT TO ROMANIA (REFTEL)

TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 5 AND 7 DECEMBER. MEMBERS OF ARAFAT'S

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DELEGATION WERE ADDUL MOHSEN ABU-MAIZAR, DIRECTOR OF

"NATIONAL DEPARTMENT" AND OF POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS, YASER ABED RABBO, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, TALAL NAJI, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, AND IMAD ABDIN, PERMANENT PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN BUCHAREST. ON 6 DECEMBER, PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU AND ARAFAT, TOGETHER WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE SUPPORT CASTS, MET AND HAD LUNCH.

2. RESPECTIVE TOASTS AND RESULTING COMMUNIQUE WERE WARM, WITH ARAFAT BECOMING POSITIVELY EFFUSIVE TOWARDS CEAUSESCU, CALLING HIM "CLOSEST FRIEND" OF ARAB PEOPLE AND PALESTINIANS. BOTH SIDES REPEAT WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ON ME, WITH ROMANIANS CONVENIENTLY NEGLECTING TO INCLUDE THEIR USUAL CALL FOR INDEPENDENCE OF ALL STATES IN AREA, AS THEY SOMETIMES DO WITH MORE MILITANT ARABS. ONLY POSSIBLE NEW ITEM WHICH STRIKES US IS DEMAND THAT, AS PART OF ME SETTLEMENT, HOUSING AND PROPERTY BE RETURNED TO PALESTINIANS, WHICH DID NOT APPEAR IN 1974 COMMUNIQUE. DEPUTY EDITOR OF ROMANIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY LUMEA EXPRESSED OPINION THAT FACT THAT ARAFAT REFRAINED FROM MENTIONING ISRAEL IN TOAST, RATHER THAN INDULGING IN CRITICISM OF GOI AS IN PAST, WAS HOPEFUL SIGN.

3. COMMENT: TOASTS AND COMMUNIQUE SUPPORT INITIAL IMPRESSION (REFTEL) THAT ARAFAT WAS HERE TO SHORE UP HIS SUPPORT PRIOR TO EXPECTED NEW ROUND OF ME NEGOTIATIONS. ROMANIANS OBVIOUSLY ALSO WISH TO KEEP THEIR HAND IN DISCUSSIONS, AS EVIDENCED BY EXPECTED ARRIVAL HERE NEXT WEEK OF NATHAN GOLDMAN, PRESIDENT OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, WHOSE PRESENCE, IN TYPICAL ROMANIAN FASHION, WILL PROVIDE PERFECT BALANCE TO ARAFAT VISIT.
BARNES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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